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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3405

October 21, 2010

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

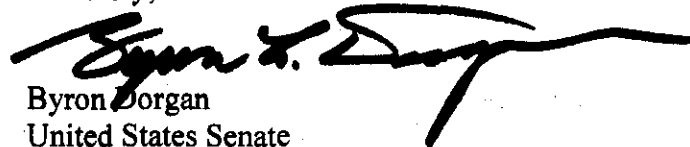
I write today regarding the proposed merger between CenturyLink and Qwest. The proposed merger is a matter of importance to the constituents that I represent, and as the FCC reviews this proposal, I urge the Commission to carefully consider the potential impact it could have on consumers.

Qwest's network provides phone and Internet access for millions of consumers in the western United States. Today, because of the framework Congress created in the 1996 Telecommunications Act, many consumers in Qwest's territory are afforded a choice between communications providers. I am concerned about the merger's potential impact on my constituents' continued access to competitive alternatives for telecommunications services.

Unlike Qwest, CenturyLink has never managed the complex technical challenges required for competing carriers to interconnect with a regional bell company network. Without specific conditions set forth by the FCC, the merged company might not have the technical and operational expertise to maintain or improve the quality of service currently enjoyed by my constituents.

This merger must not disrupt our western states' core communications infrastructure. As you complete your review of the proposed merger, I urge you to consider enforceable commitments that safeguard all consumers.

Sincerely,


Byron Dorgan
United States Senate

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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

November 16, 2010

The Honorable Byron L. Dorgan
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Dorgan:

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about the proposed transfer of control between CenturyLink and Qwest. I value your perspective on this transaction and I appreciate your interest in this matter.

Many of the issues associated with this transaction – investment in broadband infrastructure, extending broadband to rural areas, and job creation – are among my highest priorities as Chairman. The Commission takes seriously its evaluation of transfer of control applications and you can be assured that it will consider these issues as part of its careful and deliberate review of this proposed transfer.

Your letter will be included in the record of this proceeding. If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line and a small dot.

Julius Genachowski